



COVENANT

Bible-Presbyterian Church

Preaching Christ for His Glory and His Kingdom

Order of Worship — 6 May 2018

Theme for the Year: "King Jesus Must Reign" (1 Corinthians 15:25)

Prelude	<i>The Lord Is in His Holy Temple</i>
Call to Worship	
*Opening Hymn	TP 96:9-13
*Invocation & † <i>Gloria Patri</i>	
Scripture Reading	1 John 2:1-17
The Lord's Supper	
Hymn	148 - <i>O Teach Me What It Meaneth</i>
Hymn	243 - <i>Come, Thou Fount of Every Blessing</i>
Tithes & Offering	
*†† <i>Doxology</i> & Offertory Prayer	
Scripture Reading	Psalm 130:1-8
Hymn	423 - <i>Redeemed</i>
Confession of Faith & Pastoral Prayer	
Sermon	"Keep Calling on the LORD for Help"
*Closing Hymn	414 - <i>Revive Us Again</i>
*Benediction & <i>Threefold Amen</i>	
Silent Prayer & Postlude	
Announcements	<i>*Congregation standing</i>

†Glory be to the Father, and to the Son:
And to the Holy Ghost;
As it was in the beginning,
Is now and ever shall be:
World without end. Amen.

††Praise God, from whom all blessings flow;
Praise him, all creatures here below;
Praise him above, ye heavenly host;
Praise Father, Son, and Holy Ghost.
Amen.

Covenant Bible-Presbyterian Church meets every Sunday at 10:00 am
at 47 Davis Road, Attadale, Western Australia

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Strengthening the Hand

God's people can face great opposition. In the midst of this, friendship and encouragement are much needed.

We see this in the life of David. In 1 Samuel 23, David had to flee from King Saul.

He had been King Saul's favorite at one point, but now, he was his most hated enemy. Saul sent soldiers after him.

In the midst of this, who could David turn to? He turned to God. And God knew the encouragement he needed.

In the midst of such betrayal, God sent someone who was loyal. He gave to David his good friend Jonathan.

Jonathan was truly a friend.

He came to encourage David and there are 5 lessons we can learn from this on what biblical encouragement is supposed to look like.

1. Biblical Encouragement Is Timely

At his lowest point, David received encouragement from Jonathan.

David knew that Saul was out to get him. And now, Saul had gotten really close. A confrontation seemed imminent.

But while Saul was looking, he hadn't found David yet because David had found refuge in a dense forest on a high mountain.

David didn't want to be found, but Jonathan managed to find him. He worked hard to look for his friend.

This is an encouraging thought for us. God would not deliver us into trouble if it's not in his will. But if God wants us to be encouraged, we shall be delivered to our encourager.

Jonathan used the right words. It's not always easy to choose the right words to use. Many who try to encourage, lack wisdom.

Case in point - Job's friends! But Jonathan used words that encouraged David.

2. Biblical Encouragement Addresses Fear

Jonathan's words encouraged David because they addressed his fear. He said in verse 17 - "*Fear not!*"

David has had a tough time. In his flight from Saul, he had encountered many people and situations. But they were all negative.

The priests at Nob had helped him - and they were slaughtered by Saul for having done so. David had protected some Israelites from the Philistines - but they were more than willing to turn him over to Saul.

David was afraid! But Jonathan told him not to be afraid.

Why? Because King Saul would not succeed. He knew that David would be the next king of Israel, and nothing, including Saul could thwart God's purposes.

Jonathan's encouragement was rooted in God's sovereignty. And Saul's campaign was rooted in rebelling against God's sovereignty.

Encouragement is not merely saying a nice word. Neither is it merely giving assurances. Sometimes to be nice, we resort to false assurances. We say that everything will be okay - when everything may not be okay.

But biblical encouragement uses the Word of God.

Jonathan helped David overcome his fears by reminding him God's promises. It does not give false assurance. Rather, it acknowledges the dangers, but points the person to God.

When Paul was going through great trial, Christ didn't remove that trial, but pointed Paul to his all sufficient grace.

3. Biblical Encouragement Provokes Action

Jonathan "*strengthened [David's] hand in God*" (v 16). Encouragement is not making a person feel better. It is to

strengthen a person to action. David's hands still had to work!

A person in depression does not want to get up and work. But that is what he needs to do.

David had many things left to do - he had to remain alive so that he could take up his throne.

So Jonathan strengthened David's hand, so that David could continue running and resisting.

Similarly, when Paul knew the help of Christ, he could continue in his ministry. Paul said in 2 Corinthians 12:9-10 - *"Most gladly therefore will I rather glory in my infirmities, that the power of Christ may rest upon me. Therefore I take pleasure in infirmities, in reproaches, in necessities, in persecutions, in distresses for Christ's sake: for when I am weak, then am I strong."*

4. Biblical Encouragement Provokes Worship

By all appearances, it seemed that David wouldn't live another week, let alone become Israel's king.

But Jonathan encouraged David to look to God. Verse 18 - *"And they two made a covenant before the LORD..."*

They made an oath to one another. But more importantly, they did it before the Lord.

They prayed. They sought God. They asked for his blessing. True encouragement always looks to God.

5. Biblical Encouragement Comes from Experience

Jonathan was not merely giving words of platitude to David. He was someone who had encountered God's encouragement.

The Bible tells us what kind of man Jonathan was. He was a man of valor. He was a man that stood on principle. When Saul wanted to kill David, Jonathan stood up and opposed his own father, the King.

It was also great courage on Jonathan's part to seek out David when his father's soldiers were crawling around the region.

But since Jonathan had experienced courage himself, he sought to encourage David with it.

2 Corinthians 1:4 says that the experience we have should be used to minister to others - *"that we may be able to comfort them which are in any trouble, by the comfort wherewith we ourselves are comforted of God."*

When one part of the body of Christ suffers, we all suffer with it.

Conclusion

Biblical encouragement is more than platitudes. It's more than just being there.

It's helping those who struggle to worship Christ and to look to his Word that they may be strengthened to do God's will.

~ Pastor



Westminster Shorter Catechism

Q. 17. Into what estate did the fall bring mankind?

A. The fall brought mankind into an estate of sin and misery.

Q. 18. Wherein consists the sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell?

A. The sinfulness of that estate whereinto man fell, consists in the guilt of Adam's first sin, the want of original righteousness, and the corruption of his whole nature, which is commonly called original sin; together with all actual transgressions which proceed from it.

Worship Service Roster

Service	This Week (6.5.18)	Next Week (13.5.18)
Speaker	Edward Paauwe	Mark Chen
Worship Leader	Mark Chen	Jimmy Orchard
Pianist	Jabez Huang	Meryllyn Woo
Welcomers	Danny & Susie Tan	Johnny & Lydia Orchard
Offering Stewards	Paul Butler*, Rex Sriharan* Steven Lim, Eugene Lim	Chris Budiman*, Ken Hong* Kim Leow, David Pang
Ushers	Rebecca Lee, Jemima Ng	August Ng, Putri Harapan
Kitchen Duties	Mary-Anne Chan*, Val Withnell Rosemary Fitzpatrick, Eileen	Florence Orchard*, August Ng Victor Poon
PA Duty	Ian Tay	Raymond Woo
<i>Prayer Meeting</i>	<i>11 May 2018</i>	<i>18 May 2018</i>
Facilitator	Mark Chen	Mark Chen
Pianist	Jerome Ng	Nancy Lim

Announcements

1. A warm welcome to all worshippers. May God richly bless you. Please stay behind after the service for fellowship and tea.
2. We are celebrating the Lord's Supper today. First time visitors wishing to partake the Lord's Supper should see an elder before the service.
3. We welcome Pastor Edward Paauwe to our pulpit today.
4. Next week's message: "The Needy Ministering to the Needy" (Acts 28:1-16).
5. Next week's Junior Worship message - "The Church Must Always Be Giving" (Acts 2:42-47). Speaker: Johnson Lim.
6. Visitation this week by Pastor Mark Chen, Elder Jimmy Orchard and Deacon Johnson Lim.

Appointments for the Week	Last Lord's Day Tithes & Offering, & Attendance
WED 10:00 am Craft Group FRI 7:30 pm CBI & Prayer Meeting SAT 4:30 pm JF & TF 7:30 pm Men's Bible Study SUN 9:00 am Sunday School 10:00 am Worship Service	General Fund - \$3,475.95 (*DD - \$200.00, #789 - \$250.00). Missions Fund - \$280.00 (*DD - \$100.00). Building Fund - \$300.00 (*DD - \$300.00). Total Tithes & Offering - \$4,055.95. Attendance - 158. *DD: direct deposit

Building Fund to Date	
Available Building Fund	\$91,040.90
Last Week's Collection	\$300.00
Total	\$91,340.90
Outstanding Loan	- \$380,000.00
Amount Still Needed	\$288,659.10
General Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316942
Missions Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316950
Building Fund:	BSB: 036-031 A/C: 316969

Elders: **Mark Chen (Pastor)** 6114 4242, 0415 932 373. **Jimmy Orchard** 0413 274 407.

Deacons: **Johnson Lim** 0402 145 682. **Jacob Woo** 0421 212 206. **Vincent Chiu** 0417 929 149.